



**Parks  
& Recreation**  
*Enriching People's Lives*

# Tree Ordinance Seminar for Contractors and Property Managers

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room  
March 29, 2012 5:30-6:30 P.M.



# Seminar Overview

- The purpose of this training is to provide you with the information you need to do business while understanding the requirements of the City of Santa Barbara Municipal Code related to trees.



# Benefits to you and your clients

- You will be able to provide your clients with information regarding the health and care of City regulated trees.
- The product will benefit the whole community



# Updates to Municipal Code Tree Regulations

- Santa Barbara Municipal Code Title 15 and 22 were amended to clarify regulations regarding the removal or significant alterations of trees.
- In order to remove or prune beyond the set limits for regulated trees, you must get permission from the appropriate City Department or review body



# Tree Regulations continued...

<b>If the tree is located:</b>	<b>You must contact:</b>
In the parkway, tree well, road ROW or it is in the required setback, (except EPV & BLD)	Parks and Recreation Dept.
On private property within El Pueblo Viejo (EPV) or Brinkerhoff Landmark Districts (BLD)	Community Development Dept. for Historic Landmarks Commission
In a parking lot	Community Development Dept. for Architectural Board of Review or Historic Landmarks Commission
On an Approved Landscape Plan Multi-family commercial or industrial use only	Community Development Dept. for Architectural Board of Review or Historic Landmarks Commission



# El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District

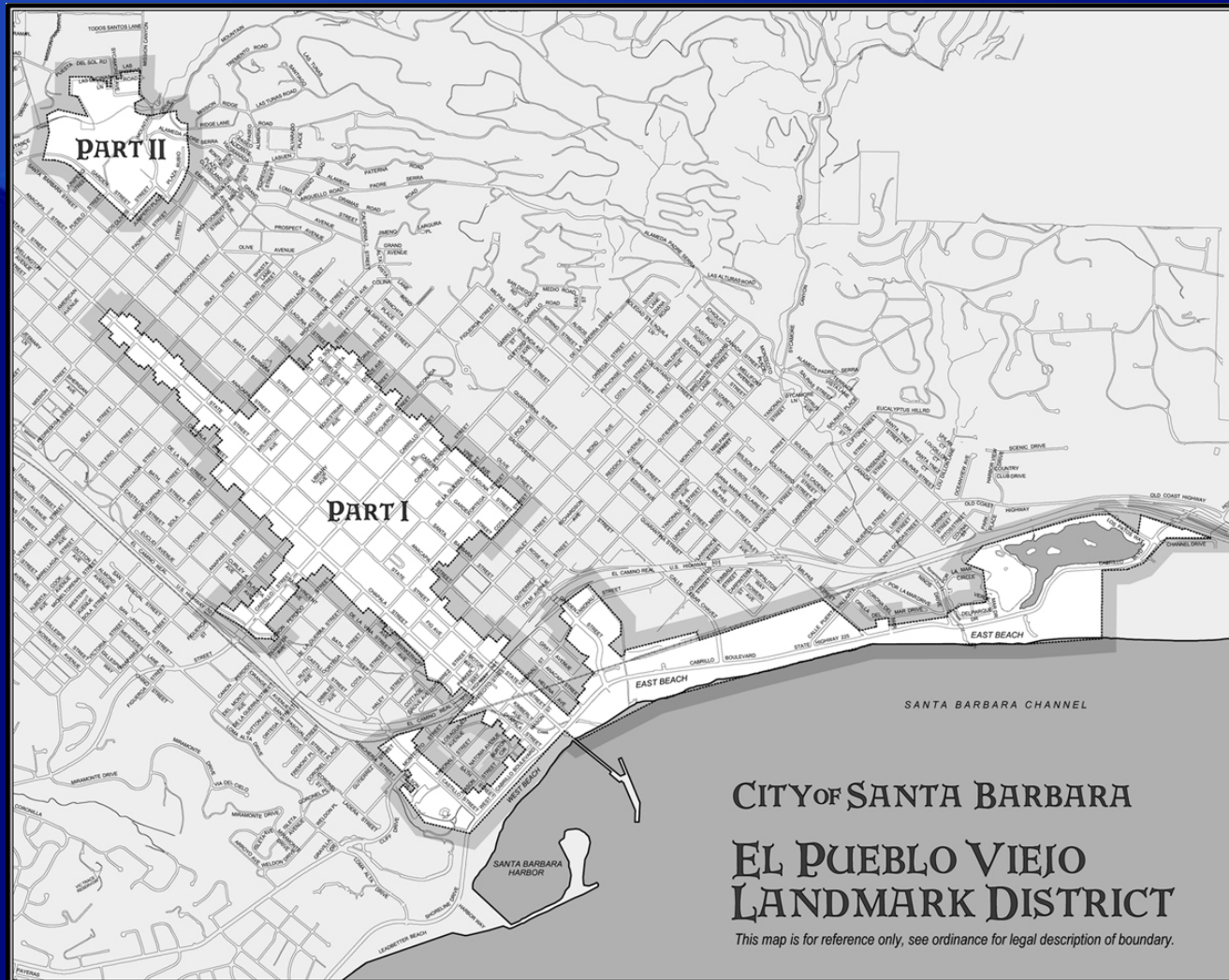
## ■ Part I

- Mission St. to Beach
- Laguna to Chapala
- Along the Beach
  - Castillo to Hot Springs
  - Freeway to beach

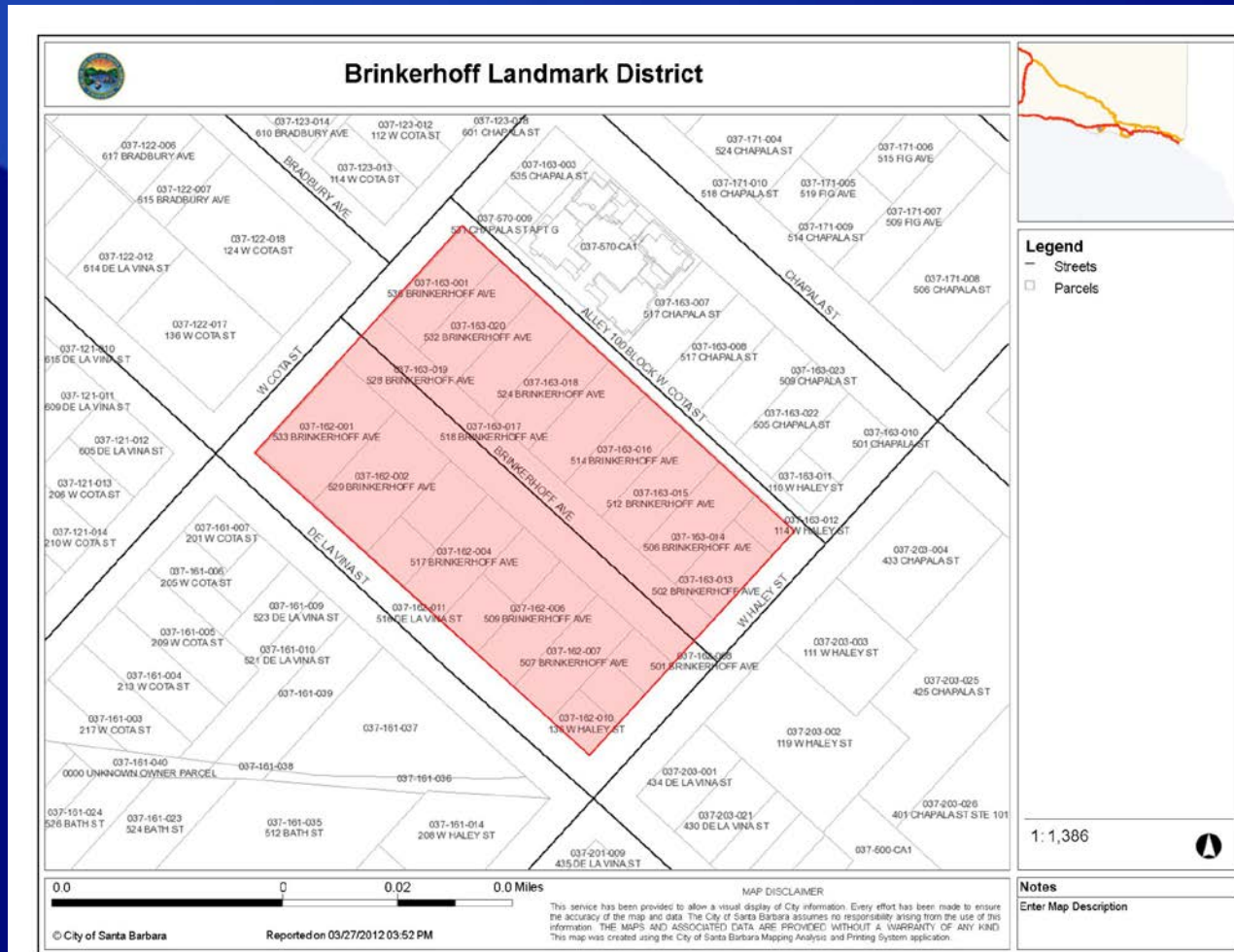
## ■ Part II

- Santa Barbara Mission and surrounding area

# El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District



# Brinkerhoff Landmark District







# List of Contacts

- Title 15
  - Parks and Recreation - 564-5433
- Title 22
  - Public Zoning counter for general questions-
    - 564-5578
  - Architectural Board of Review- Tony Boughman
    - 564-5470 x4539
  - Historic Landmark Commission- Susan Gantz
    - 564-5470 x3311
  - Single Family Design Board- Michelle Bedard
    - 564-5470 x4551



# Tree Violations within the City of Santa Barbara

- City Council established significant administrative fines for tree violations.



# Administrative Fines for Pruning or Removal Violations

<b>Action without, or in violation of, a permit</b>	<b>Trunk Diameter from 4" up to 12"</b>	<b>Trunk Diameter over 12" and up to 24"</b>	<b>Trunk Diameter over 24"</b>
<b>Pruning Offense</b>	Up to \$500	Up to \$1,000	Up to \$1,000
<b>Tree Removal</b>	Up to \$1,000	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$5,000



# Definitions

- **SIGNIFICANTLY ALTER A TREE.**
  - To prune a tree in such a way that either (i) its natural character is significantly altered, or (ii) the height and/or spread of the tree crown is reduced by more than one-quarter within any 12-month period.





# Definitions continued

- REMOVE A TREE.
  - To cut a tree down or to otherwise remove a tree from its location by any means.

# Tree Deemed a Violation





# Tree Deemed Not a Violation





# Municipal Codes Regarding the Maintenance of Trees and Plants

- Chapter 8.04.020 - Fire Code Vegetation Management and Defensible Space Requirement
- Chapter 8.20 - Vegetation Obstructing Public Places





# Municipal Codes Regarding the Maintenance of Trees and Plants

- Chapter 9.16.020 - Restriction of Use of Non-Gas Powered Leaf Blowers
- Chapter 9.16.21 - Prohibition of Use of Gas Leaf Blowers



# Municipal Codes Regarding the Maintenance of Trees and Plants

- Chapter 15.20- Tree Planting and Maintenance
- Chapter 15.24- Preservation of Trees
  - Setback Trees (except EPV and BLD)
  - Historic and Specimen trees



# 15.20.110 Permit Required

- **Planting, Maintaining, or Removing any Tree Growing Within a Street Right-of-Way or Public Area.**



## 15.24.020 Prohibition

- Remove or significantly alter a tree or to authorize or allow the removal or significant alteration without a permit:
  - A setback tree,
  - A parking lot tree,
  - A tree on an approved plan, or
  - A tree designated as an historic or specimen tree by the City Council.





## 15.24.030 Lawful Removal of Trees

- **Without a Permit if:**
  - The tree is dead – written notification
  - The tree is so weakened by age, disease, storm, fire, or any injury so as to cause imminent danger to persons or property – ASCA or ISA C.A. written report
  - The tree is diseased, and the tree's condition is a source of present danger to healthy trees – ASCA or ISA C.A. written report



## 15.24.030 Lawful Removal of Trees cont.

- The main trunk of the tree is less than four inches (4") in diameter (DBH)
- The Fire Department has ordered the tree removed - Evidence



# 15.24.035 Lawful Significant Alteration of Trees

## ■ **Without a Permit if:**

- The tree poses a potential danger to persons or property
  - A written report prepared by a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists or an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, AND
  - An authorized employee of the City Parks and Recreation Department assesses the condition of the tree and approves the proposed work
- The City Fire Department has ordered the pruning of the tree



# Setback Tree

- A tree located in the front of a property within the distance set by the property zoning.
  - If more than 50% of the tree trunk, measured at the highest natural grade adjacent to the trunk, is within the front setback.
- Web Site to check a setback -Web Site to check a setback -  
[http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/tm\\_web/Parcel\\_Lookup/](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/tm_web/Parcel_Lookup/)





# Historic Trees

- Moreton Bay Fig Tree (*Ficus macrophylla*) — Corner of Chapala St. at Montecito St.
- City Hall Pepper (*Schinus molle*)—De La Guerra Plaza entrance to City Hall
- Cota Sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*)—near Mission SB-at Los Olivos St. & APS
- Doremus Stone Pines (*Pinus pinea*)—300-800 Blocks E. Anapamu St.



# Historic Trees continued

- “Fernald Eucalyptus” (*Eucalyptus citriodora*)—400 Blk. Santa Barbara St. (Smart & Final entrance)
- Franceschi Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolium* x *populneum*) City Parking Lot 12
- “Tree of Light” (*Araucaria heterophylla*) — 100 W. Carrillo St. (NW corner of Chapala St. at Carrillo St - Ralphs Market)



# Specimen Trees

- American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)—1210 Carpinteria St., near property line (PL)
- Two Australian Fan Palms (*Livistona australis*) -131 E. Anapamu St., front setback
- Indian Laurel Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *nitida*) – 100 E. Constance Ave. (SE corner Constance at Anacapa St.)



# Municipal Codes Regarding the Maintenance of Trees and Plants

- Chapter 22.10- Vegetation Removal
- Chapter 22.11- Maintenance of Approved Landscape Plans
- Chapter 22.22 – Historic Structures



# Municipal Codes Regarding the Maintenance of Trees and Plants

- Chapter 22.68 - Architectural Board of Review
- Chapter 22.69 - Single Family Design Board



# Municipal Codes Regarding the Maintenance of Trees and Plants

- Chapter 22.76 - View Dispute Resolution Process
  - Does not apply to trees covered by Title 15
    - A City owned tree
    - A setback tree,
    - A parking lot tree,
    - A tree on an approved plan, or
    - A tree designated as an historic or specimen tree by the City Council.





# Municipal Codes Regarding the Maintenance of Trees and Plants

- Section 28.87.170 - Fences, Walls, Screens, and Hedges
- Section 28.87.200 - Landscape or Planting Plan Approvals-Standards
- Section 28.90.050 - Landscaping and Lighting (Parking Lot Standards)



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- The Municipal Code can be found at:  
[http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/City\\_Hall/Municode](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Government/City_Hall/Municode)



# Questions?

# Thank you